

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 L-03 H-01 /031 W
-----181537 095958 /40

P 181505Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5040

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0472

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, ZA, US

SUBJ: PAN AM OVERFLIGHTS OF ZAMBIA

REF: (A) ABIDJAN 1669, (B) PRETORIA 0720

1. WE HAVE REQUESTED AN EXPLANATION FOR THE CANCELLATION OF
PANAM'S OVERFLIGHT PERMISSION FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS ORALLY AND BY DIP NOTE. SUBSEQUENTLY WE HAVE
PRESSED THE MINISTRY FOR A RESPONSE ON AN URGENT BASIS.
AS OF 1700 HOURS LOCAL WE STILL HAD HEARD NOTHING FROM
THE MINISTRY.

2. INFORMAL APPROACHES TO AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL AUTHORITIES
HERE PRODUCED CONFIRMATION THAT PANAM OVERFLIGHT PERMISSION
HAD BEEN CANCELLED AS DESCRIBED IN REFTEL (B). THEY ALSO
SAID THAT PERMISSION HAD BEEN LIFTED ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM
THE GRZ MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. THIS MINISTRY HAS ULTIMATE
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AUTHORITY ON ALL QUESTION OF OVERFLIGHTS, EVEN THOSE THAT
ARE ROUTINELY HANDLED BY CIVIL AUTHORITIES.

COMMENT: AT THIS POINT WE CAN ONLY SPECULATE, BUT WE
BELIEVE ABRUPT CANCELLATION IS PROBABLY RELATED TO
HEIGHTENED ZAMBIAN CONCERN OVER RHODESIAN SANCTIONS
VIOLATIONS. (ROUTE OVERFLIES RHODESIA BEFORE AND AFTER

ZAMBIA ACROSS A CLOSED BORDER.) PRESIDENT KAUNDA
IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS TO THE OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE
MADE CLEAR HIS DISTRESS AT SUCH VIOLATIONS. HE, OR MORE
LIKELY, ONE OF HIS SUBORDINATES MWY HAVE DECIDED THAT
LIFTING PANAM'S CLEARANCE WOULD BE AN EFFECTIVE WAY OF
PROVING THAT GRZ TAKES RHODESIAN SANCTIONS SERIOUSLY.
CHOOSING PAN AM AS A TARGET MAKES THE POINT EFFECTIVELY.
IT DOESN'T ANSWER THE QUESTIONABLE LOGIC OF CONTINUING
TO PERMIT OTHER CARRIERS TO USE THE SAME ROUTE AND OF
ALLOWING DIRECT SUPPLY FLIGHTS FROM SOUTH AFRICA TO
ZAMBIA TO PROCEED.

FOR NAIROBI: PLEASE INFORM PANAM REP LAYTON (PHONE 29647)
OF STATUS OF PLAY.

FOR ABIDJAN: COULD YOU PLEASE PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION
ABOUT WHICH AIRLINES FLY ROUTES SIMILAR TO PANAM'S, TAKING
THEM ACROSS ZAMBIA TO SOUTH AFRICA. LOW

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